

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 12, 15 and 18 and ADD new claim 19 in accordance with the following:

1-10. (CANCELLED)

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The arithmetic and logic unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fourth part performs initialization based on prediction information given to the branch instruction.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An arithmetic and logic unit comprising:
a first part performing a branch prediction in response to a branch instruction;
a second part updating a transition probability of the branch prediction according to whether a branch is actually made;
a third part detecting that a process is switched; and
a fourth part initializing branch prediction information when the third part detects that the process is switched, and
wherein the fourth part fixedly performs initialization according to a branch destination of the branch instruction, without depending on a particular process.

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said initializing comprises performing initialization based on prediction information given to the branch instruction.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A branch prediction method comprising:
performing a branch prediction in response to a branch instruction;
updating a transition probability of the branch prediction according to whether a branch is

actually made;

detecting that a process is switched; and

initializing branch prediction information when said detecting detects that the process is switched, and

wherein said initializing comprises fixedly performing initialization according to a branch destination of the branch instruction, without depending on a particular process.

16. (CANCELLED)

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the fourth part performs initialization based on prediction information given to the branch instruction.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information processing apparatus comprising:
a first part performing a branch prediction in response to a branch instruction;
a second part updating a transition probability of the branch prediction according to whether a branch is actually made;
a third part detecting that a process is switched; and
a fourth part initializing branch prediction information when the third part detects that the process is switched, and
wherein the fourth part fixedly performs initialization according to a branch destination of the branch instruction, without depending on a particular process.

19. (NEW) A method of performing a branch prediction in response to a branch instruction, comprising:

detecting whether a process is switched; and

setting the branch prediction to a predetermined branch prediction information upon detecting that the process is switched, where the initializing includes fixedly performing initialization according to a branch destination of the branch instruction without depending on a particular process.